

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 11799 221631Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07  
ERDA-05 NRC-05 OES-07 /112 W  
-----002997 222234Z /65

R 221239Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5549  
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
AMEMBASSY DACCA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 11799

EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: PGOV, TECH, IN, UR, US  
SUBJ: PM DESAI'S AUGUST 21 PRESS CONFERENCE

1. MONDAY PESS HERE GAVE PROMINENT BILLING TO PRIME MINISTER DESAI'S PATNA PRESS CONFERENCE COMMENTS ON HIS TRAVEL PLANS AND ON ASPECTS OF INDIAN RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE US.
2. PM'S PLANS TO VISIT THE USSR AND THE US HAD ALREADY BEEN WIDELY REPORTED IN PRESS EARLIER ON THE WEEKEND, AND HE WAS INEVITABLY ASKED WHETHER IN GOING TO THE TWO SUPERPOWERS IN QUICK SUCCESSION HE WAS NOT TRYING TO "BALANCE" THE TWO. DESAI REPORTEDLY REPLIED "NO, BOTH HAD INVITED ME AND BOTH HAD BEEN PRESSING THAT I SHOULD VISIT THEM QUICKLY." HE ADDED THAT INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY WAS NOT BALANCE OF POWER ORIENTED BUT RATHER SOUGHT TO PROMOTE AND

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 11799 221631Z

STRENGTHEN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES.

3. THE PM REPORTEDLY REITERATED HIS FIRM STAND AGAINST PNES, MAINTAINING THAT WHILE INDIA WOULD CONTINUE TO USE AND DEVELOP NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES NO EXPLOSION WAS NEEDED FOR SUCH PURPOSES. ACCORDING TO ONE ACCOUNT, THE PM DENIED THAT THERE

WAS ANY UNDERSTANDING WITH THE US ON THIS SUBJECT, REPORTEDLY ASSERTING "WE ARE NOT HERE TO BARTER ANYTHING AWAY."

4. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, DESAI ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THERE WAS NO CLAUSE IN THE INDO-SOVIET TREATY WHICH BOUND INDIA TO SUPPORT THE SOVIET UNION IN THE EVENT OF A WAR. HE DENIED THAT IT WAS A DEFENSE TREATY. ACCORDING TO SOME ACCOUNTS, THE PM "DISMISSED" THE SUGGESTION THAT THE TREATY PROVISIONS BE MADE PUBLIC, ASKING WHY THIS DEMAND HAD NOT BEEN MADE IN THE YEARS SINCE IT WAS SIGNED IN 1971. "MUST EVERYTHING BE MADE PUBLIC," HE RETORTED.

COMMENT: WE ARE CONFUSED BY THIS REPORTED EXCHANGE. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, BUT THE PM AND THE PATNA PRESS CORPS MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN, THE TEXT WAS MADE PUBLIC BY THE GANDHI GOVERNMENT. THERE HAVE LONG BEEN RUMORS OF SECRET CLAUSES AND MORARJI MAY HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO THESE PROVISIONS. IF SO, IT WOULD CONSTITUTE THE FIRST OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF THEIR EXISTENCE. WE WILL INQUIRE AND REPORT FURTHER IF WE FIND INFORMATION OF INTEREST.  
GOHEEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 22-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977NEWDE11799  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770303-0224  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** NEW DELHI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770837/aaaabffp.tel  
**Line Count:** 85  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 2769fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1527806  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PM DESAI'S AUGUST 21 PRESS CONFERENCE  
**TAGS:** PGOV, TECH, IN, UR, US, (DESAI, MORARJI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/2769fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009